

In brief

Where's the water coming from?

EVER wondered why there frequently appears to be water streaming along Farnborough Road in Farnham, down the hill towards the roundabout?

Us too, so we asked around. South East Water has confirmed there is no leak in the water network and Surrey County Council stated: "This has been reported and we are inspecting the area."

The mystery remains. Get in touch if you have any clues, at aldershot.editorial@trinitymirror.com.

Hands-on support for youth charity

AN Aldershot youth homelessness charity has been given a place on a programme to help it grow.

As part of the Social Business Trust's SBT Design scheme, Step by Step will get hands-on support for up to 18 months to help it create a robust business plan for sustainable growth and potential investment.

It is one of six enterprises to be named as part of the programme, which launched last Tuesday.

New lease of life for one of town's historic buildings

Grade two-listed Union Building – a former workhouse, school and Army pay office – will be converted into one and two-bedroom apartments

by Charlotte Neal
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A DISUSED historic building, just a stone's throw away from the 3,850-home Wellesley development, is set for a new lease of life as developers set to transform it into 17 apartments.

The grade two-listed Union Building, in Hospital Hill, Aldershot, will be restored and converted into one and two-bedroom properties, including a landscaped communal garden.

It is expected that the first homes will go on sale in May.

Originally built in 1629 as a sub-manor to the local Tichborne estate, the Union Building survived civil war skirmishes, a fire and hurricane winds before serving as a workhouse and a school.

However, it was not until the mid-19th century that the

building adopted its name. In 1954, the War Department purchased the properties and established camp in the area, where it used the Union Building as a military hospital.

Its life as a hospital was relatively short-lived and following the opening of the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot in 1879, its usage was changed and the Army pay office took up occupation.

In 1907, the building was almost completely destroyed by fire but extensive work was carried out to save it.

During the Second World War the nearby Salamanca Barracks succumbed to German bombing, but the Union Building managed to avoid incendiary damage. The period features remain and are still standing today, including red tile roofing,

wooden and metal beams, mullion windows and a gabled entrance porch.

Angela Walsh, head of sales and marketing at Annington, the developer, said the building had a wonderful history and was a landmark in Aldershot.

"Having fallen into a state of disrepair, we are delighted to be able to give the building a new lease of life, creating a range of distinctive homes in the process," she said,

"It is fascinating to work with a listed building of such local importance and we are retaining and enhancing as much of the original building as possible, including exposed wooden beams, iron frames and detailed brick work, while making only essential alterations to its structural layout, ensuring its historic integrity remains.

"There is widespread



The Union Building, in Hospital Hill, will be transformed to create 17 one and two-bedroom apartments.

investment under way throughout Aldershot and the council has recently produced an improved Town

Centre Prospectus that has been met positively by the local community.

"We are sure that Union

Place will become a vibrant residential area and hope it will play a positive role in Aldershot's future."

Damaged cars: Police appeal for information

POLICE are appealing for information following four vandalism incidents in Aldershot during the past two weeks.

The first took place between 3pm on Saturday February 13 and 11am the following day in Park Road, involving a damaged wing mirror on a parked Citroën Picasso.

The second incident happened between 10pm on Sunday February 14 and 8.40am the next day in Church Hill, where a parked Vauxhall Astra was scratched and the wing mirror damaged.

The third took place at around 10am on Saturday February 20, when there was a report of damage to a tyre on an Audi TT parked at the Westgate Centre.

The final incident was between 8.10am and 9am on Monday February 22, when it was reported that two scratches were made to the side of a Honda Accord parked at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre.

Sergeant Debbie Barnes has indicated that there has not been an increase in vandalism in the area during this period and that the offences were not being treated as linked.

No arrests have been made

and enquiries are ongoing.

Anyone who may have information about any of these incidents is asked to call the Aldershot neighbourhood policing team on 101, quoting crime references 44160071340, 44160066930, 44160075216 and 44160076499.

Gas firm tidies verges damaged during work

A WEEK after a Rushmoor Borough councillor and residents in North Town said they were upset about the mess left by workmen in their streets, the gas supplier responsible has cleaned up.

SGN has repaired churned up grass verges where vehicles were parked and equipment stored while work was carried out in Friend Avenue, Roberts Road, Brookfield Road, Field Way and Haig Road.

The company has told Councillor Keith Dibble that the verges in Friend Avenue

have been topsoiled.

In his email, Graham Stovold, team manager for SGN Thames Valley Aldershot, said the area around the junction of Field

Way and Brookfield Road would be cleared this week and topsoil added to verges.

He added: "The final section of the project from 2 Field Way to 118 Field Way



The verge in Friend Avenue has now been repaired.

requires a more labour intensive work method to complete. This will be carried out to the required standard our customers expect. Some of this work will need to be done under temporary traffic lights."

Verges at 2-4 Brookfield Road and on the opposite side adjacent to 52 Field Way are also being repaired.

Cllr Dibble said: "We are very pleased SGN responded so quickly after we made representation on behalf of North Town residents.

"It's encouraging to see

workmen have repairing and making good the grass verges. In partnership with local people and the county council, we will be monitoring progress to ensure the works are completed on time and to the correct standard.

"As North Town residents and councillors, we want to see everyone taking pride in our community, whether they be local people businesses, public utilities or contractors."

The gas main installation is expected to be completed at the end of this month.

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